**Government's view on Global Patenting**

2386. SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO:

SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI;

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Governmen'ts views on global patenting plants and seeds;

(b) whether any research unit, Indian or foreign, got permission for the purpose; and

(e) if so, in which part of the country the unit is working?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Patents Act 1970 does not permit grant of product patents for plants and seeds in India.

India does not support the establishment of an international regime requiring patenting of plants and seeds.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Threat to set up Trade Barriers by Industrial Countries**

2387. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the advanced industrial countries are threatening to set up trade barriers;

(b) if so, whether India is not out-Banking Dunkel by opening its market to foreign multinationals; and

(c) whether this trend is going to be further strengthened in the near future

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A general protectionist trend has been discerned in some industrialized countries.

India is following its policy of liberaization in its own interest, and it is not the intention of government to reserse these policies.

**7th India-Australia Business Council Meeting**

2388. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the potential items for export from India to Australia indicating whether there is any adverse trade balance for India in 1991-92 as compared to 1992-93;

(b) the outcome of discussions sponsored recently at the ASOCHAM-FICCI, 7th India-Austilalia Joint Business Council meeting held; in February, 1993 in New Delhi; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far by the Central Government for stepping up Australian investment in our country, industrial collaborations particularly in the areas of power generation, mining minerals food processing, automotive components etc., including participation in Trade Fairs and exhibiation by both India and Australia

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMA-LUDDIN AHMED): (a) In 1991-92 India had a trade deficit of USD 882 million. In the period April-November, 1992 the trade deficit is USD 410 million against a deficit of USD 264M during the same period in 1991. The

major items with export potential